# MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
(Formerly Bureau of Health)
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# \*\*ADVISORY – Important Information\*\*

### 2012PHADV013

**TO:** Academic, Animal Care, Epidemiologists, HETL, City and County Health

Departments, Healthcare, Lab Facilities, County EMA Directors, Maine Medical Association, Northern New England Poison Center, Public Health, EMS Regional

Coordinators, Regional Resource Centers, State and Federal Agencies

**FROM:** Dr. Sheila Pinette, Maine CDC Director

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**SUBJECT:** West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Pool – Maine, 2012

**DATE:** Monday, August 20, 2012

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## West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Pool - Maine, 2012

Maine CDC has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus (WNV) in mosquitoes in the state. One mosquito pool (a collection which contains between 1-50 mosquitoes) tested positive for WNV at Maine's Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory (HETL) on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The pool of *Culiseta melanura* mosquitoes was collected on August 1, 2012 in the town of Lebanon.

This is the earliest WNV has been identified in mosquitoes in Maine. The last time WNV was identified in Maine was from a mosquito pool in 2010. There has been a recent increase in regional WNV activity over the last month, including multiple positive mosquito pools in New Hampshire and human and equine cases in Massachusetts.

The mosquito species that tested positive for WNV, *Culiseta melanura*, is also the major enzootic vector of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), another arboviral illness that is found on the east coast. Presently no mosquitoes have tested positive for EEE.

#### **Prevention:**

Maine CDC recommends the following preventative measures to protect against WNV and other mosquito-borne illnesses:

- Use an EPA approved repellent when outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk always follow the instructions on the product's label
- Wear protective clothing when outdoors, including long-sleeved shirts, pants, and socks
- Use screens on your windows and doors to keep mosquitoes out of your home
- Avoid being outdoors at dawn and dusk when many species of mosquitoes are most active
- Practice household mosquito-source reduction: standing water should be removed from artificial water-holding containers in and around the house

# **Testing:**

Maine CDC encourages providers to test for arboviral illness in patients presenting with unexplained encephalitis, meningitis or high fever (greater than 100.4°F or 38°C) during the late summer and early fall.

If arboviral infection is suspected based on clinical evidence, serum samples and CSF (if available) should be submitted for arboviral testing. Arboviral testing for WNV and EEE can be performed at HETL. HETL requires the submitter to complete an arboviral submission form. All samples of CSF should be accompanied by a serum sample. Ideally an acute and a convalescent serum sample should be submitted for each patient.

- Acute serum samples should be collected within 14 days of onset of symptoms
- Convalescent serum samples should be collected 10 days to 4 weeks following the acute specimen

#### **Reporting:**

Arboviral illness is reportable in Maine. All suspect cases, and any positive laboratory reports should be reported by phone to the disease reporting and consultation line at 1-800-821-5821 or by fax to 1-800-293-7534.

#### **More Information:**

More information on arboviral illness is available at Maine CDC's Vector-Borne Disease website at <a href="http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/index.shtml">http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/vector-borne/index.shtml</a>. Information on pesticides and repellents is available at the Maine Board of Pesticides Control website at <a href="http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/public/index.htm#mosquito">http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pesticides/public/index.htm#mosquito</a>.